

Johnny the Walrus

By **MATT
Walsh**



Illustrations by
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Johnny's
a boy with



a big
imagination

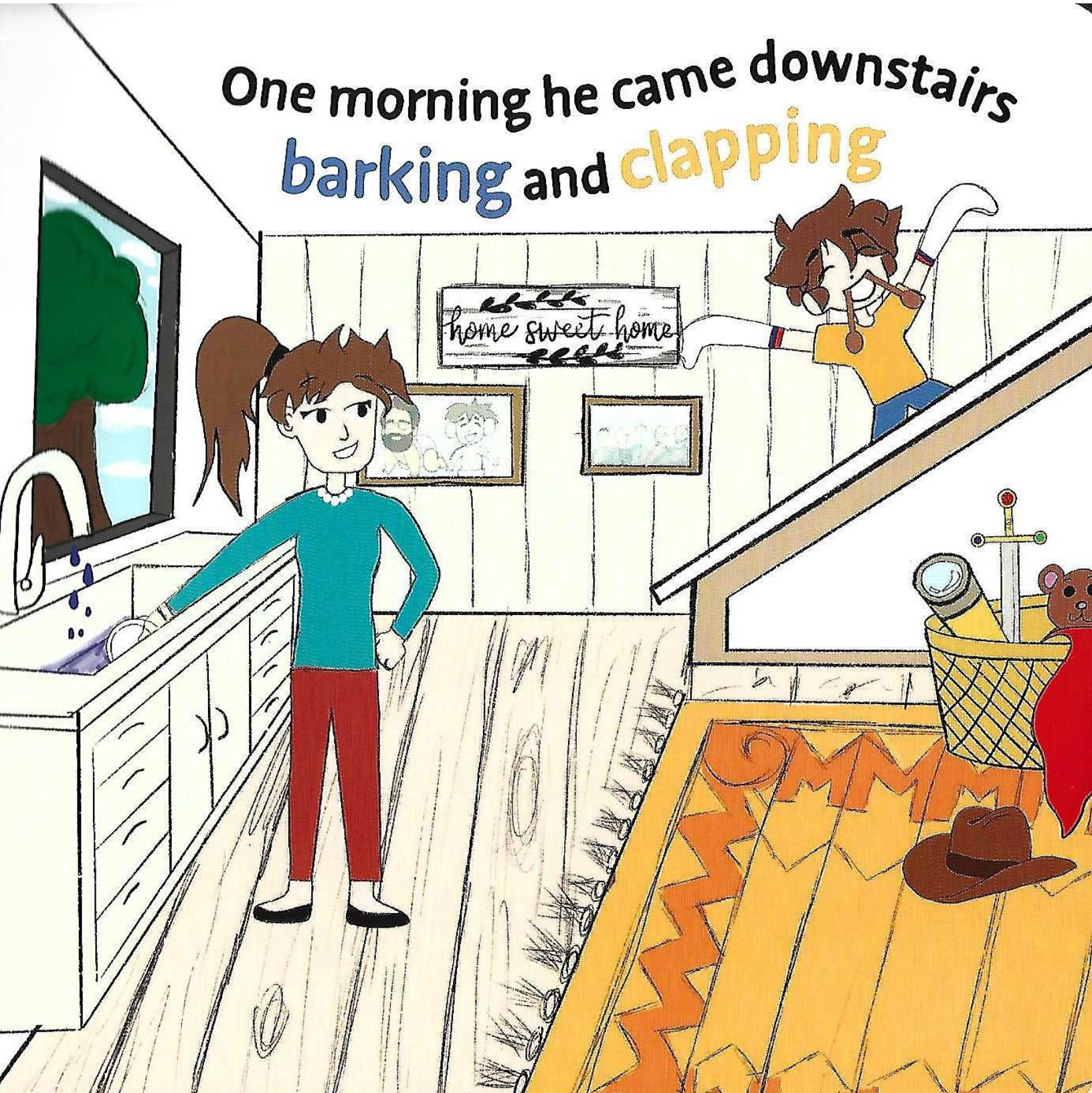
One day he's
a dog



the next day a
crustacean



One morning he came downstairs
barking and clapping

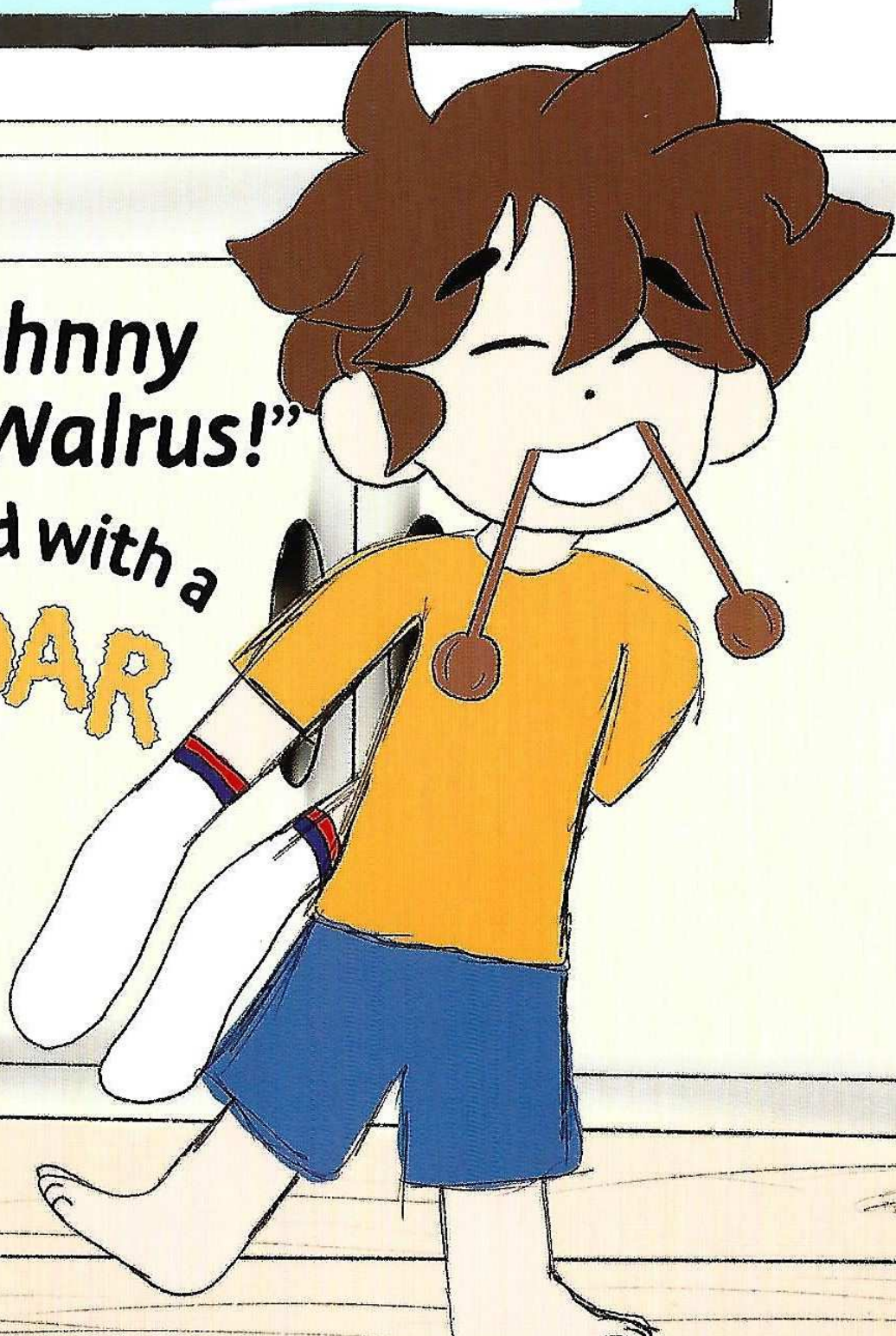


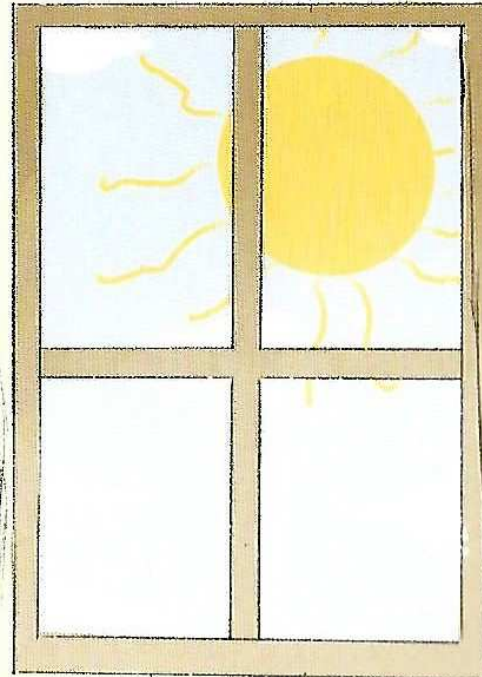
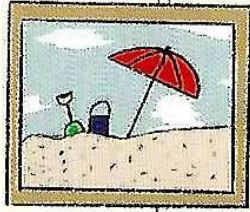


Wood spoons
for tusks
and sock fins
a-flapping

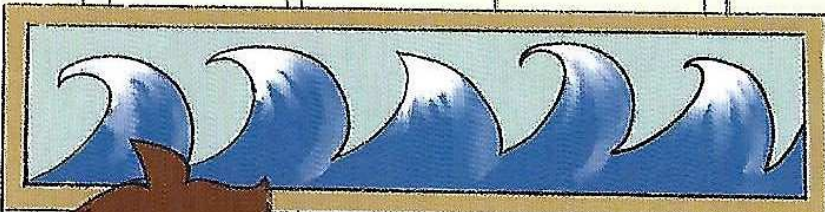


"I'm Johnny
the Walrus!"
he said with a
ROAR

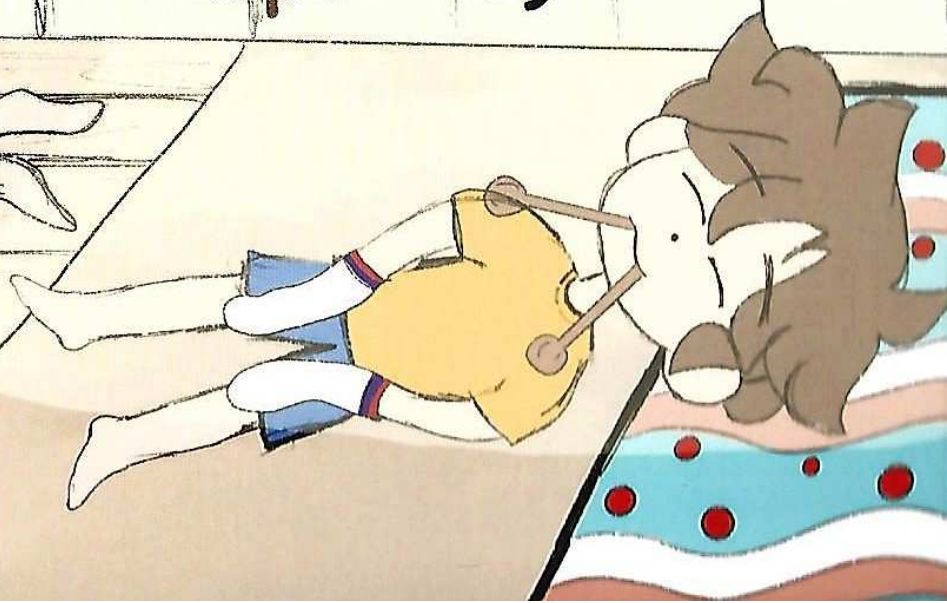




“The wood floor’s my ocean



the carpet’s my shore!”



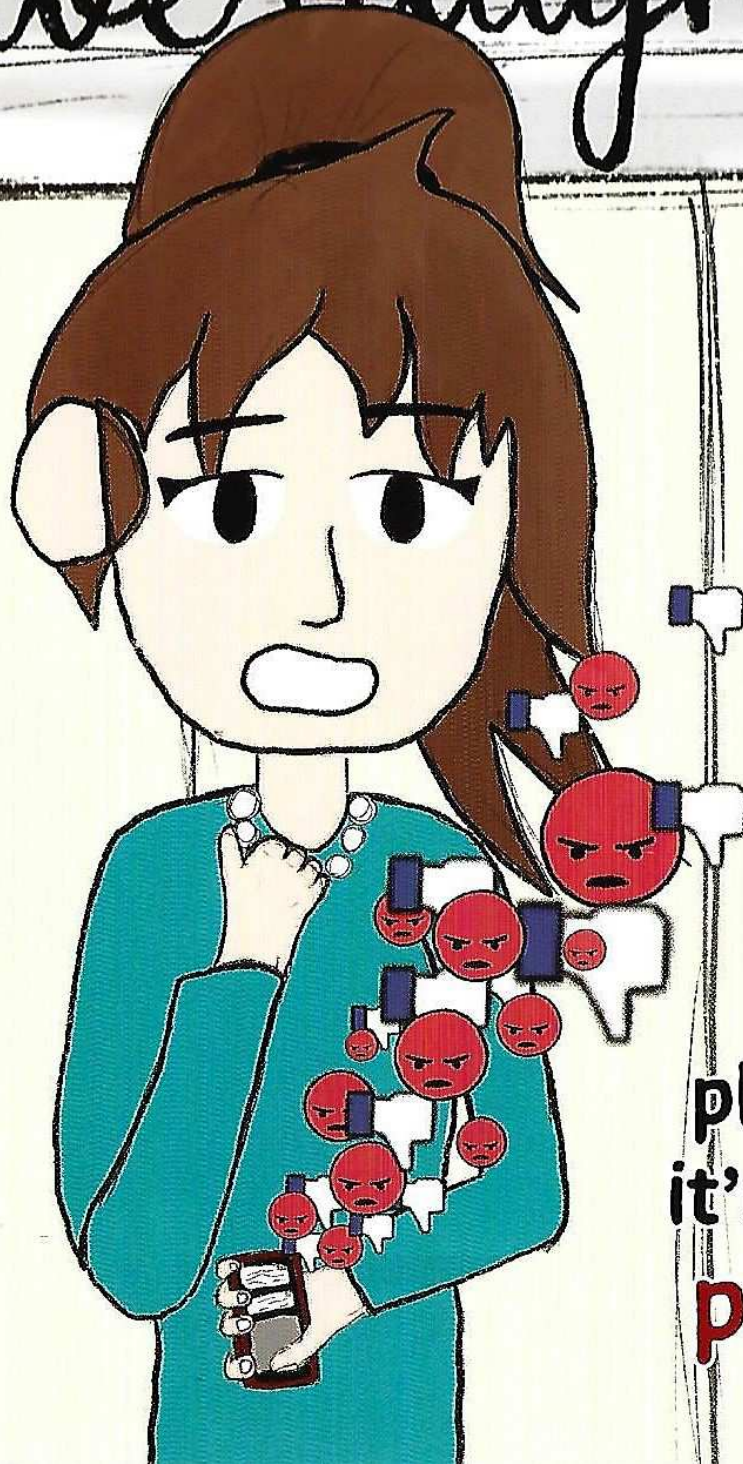


Johnny's mom
loves her son's
make-
believe
time

“You’re
**Johnny
the Walrus,**
‘til you
change
your
mind!”

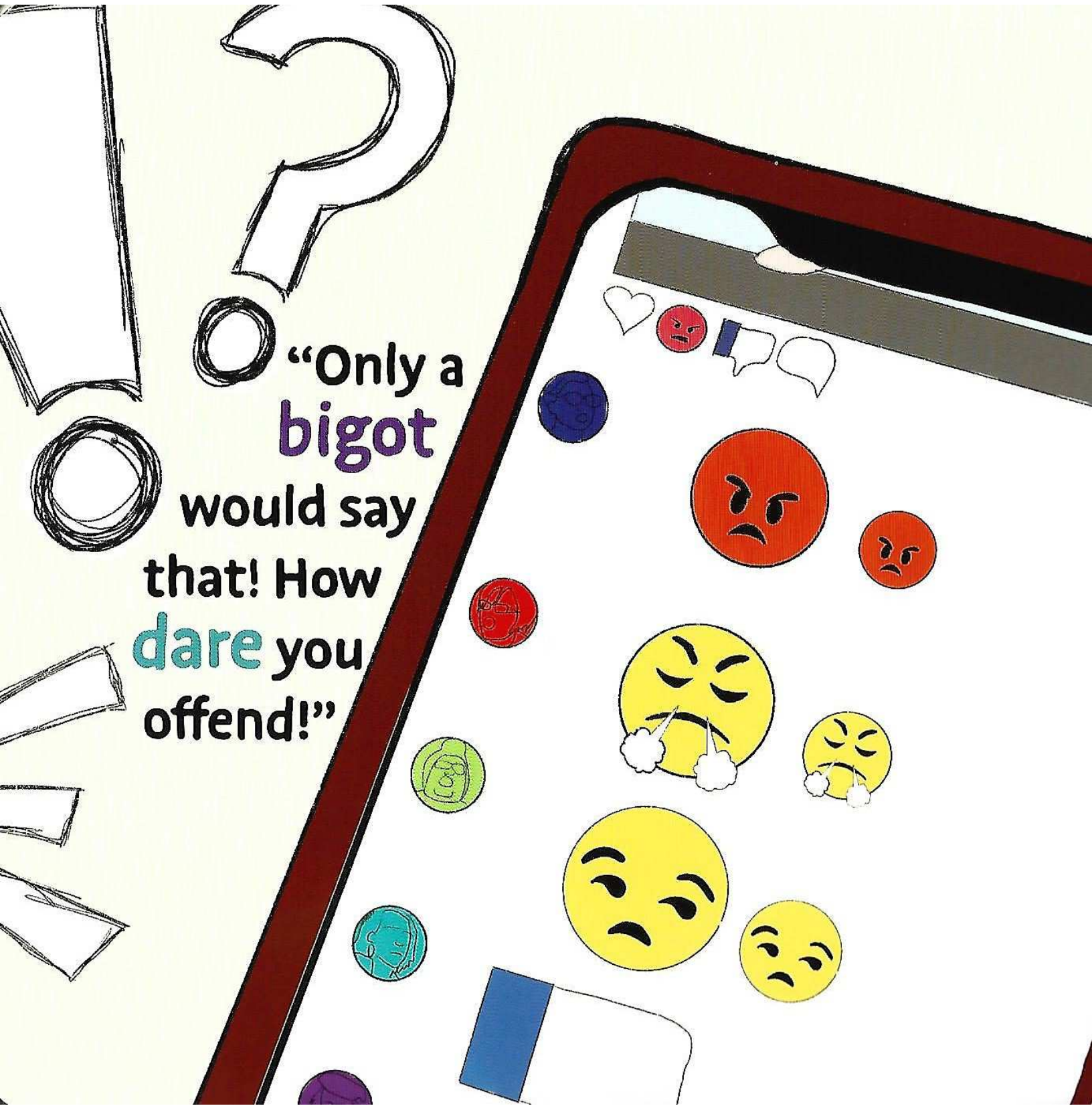


love laugh love



But
Johnny's
mom's
phone said
it's not just
pretend

“Only a
bigot
would say
that! How
dare you
offend!”





Mommy
was told
to take
John for a
checkup



Worms



Whiskers

You too can be a
WALRUS

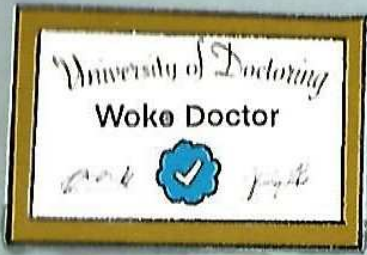


Use this
TODAY



Gray
Makeup

“You’ll need to
eat worms
and to put
on gray
makeup!”

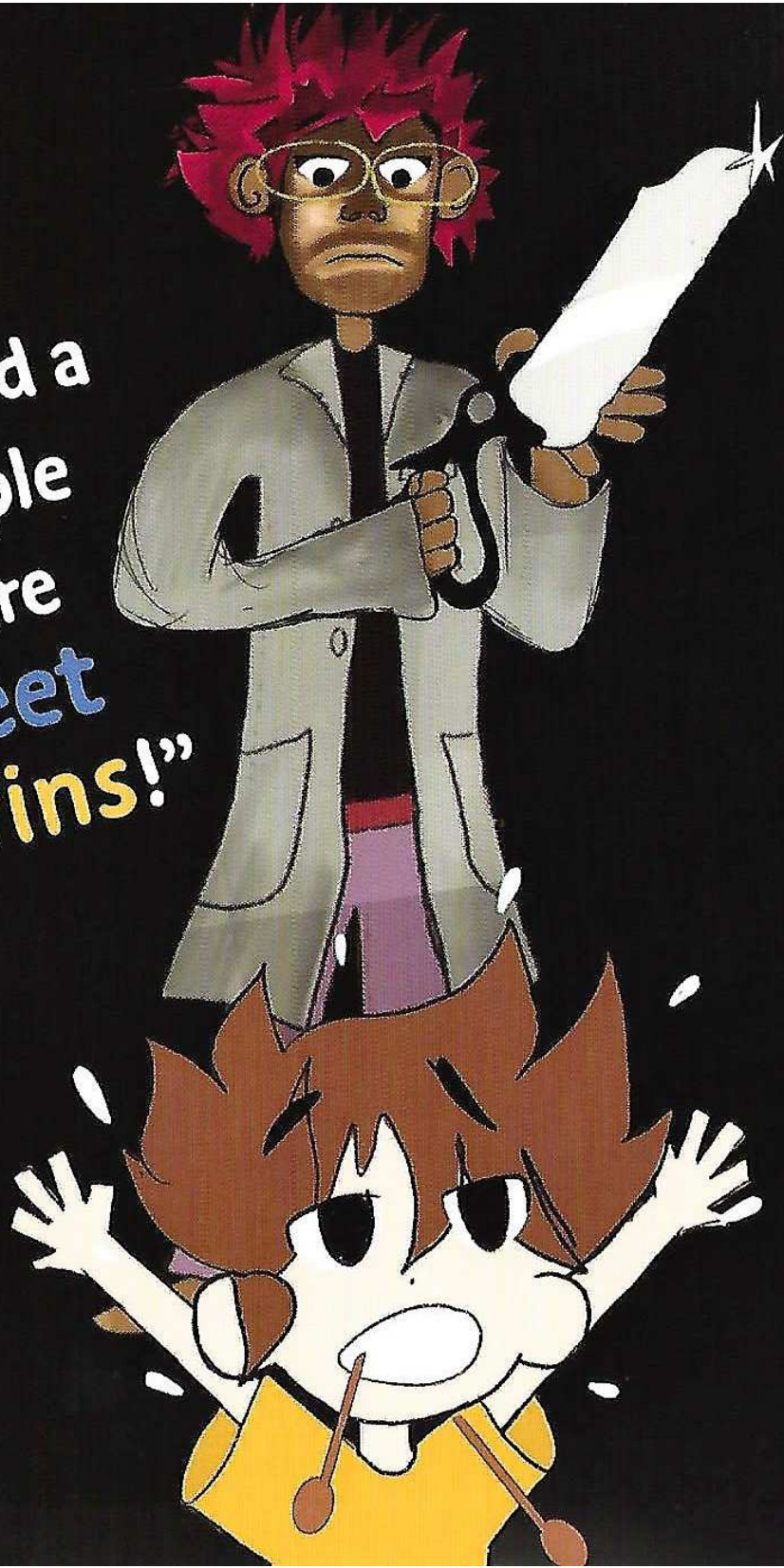


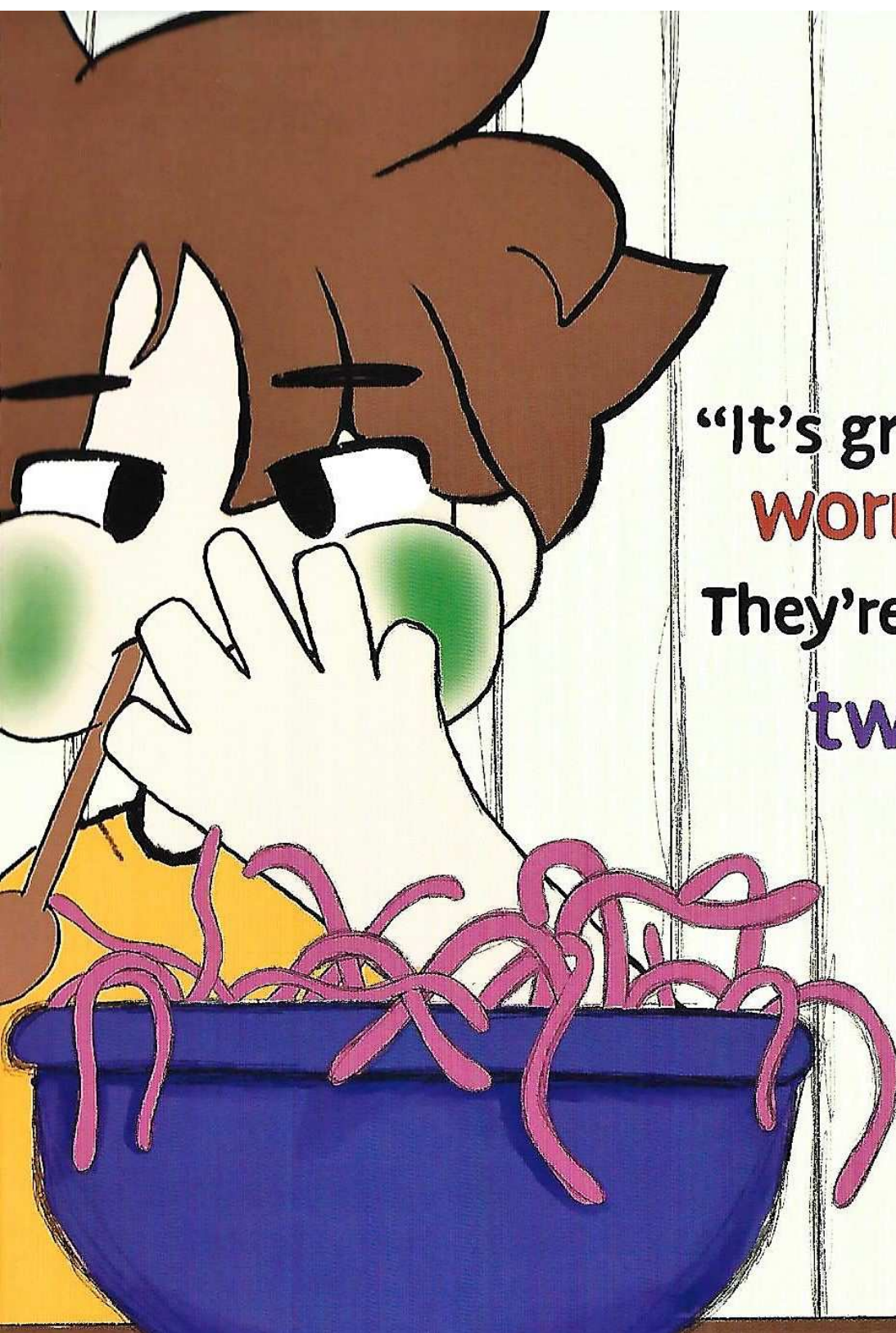
**“The worms
give you
whiskers.**

**The gray
blends
you in.”**



“And a
simple
procedure
cuts **feet**
into **fins!**”

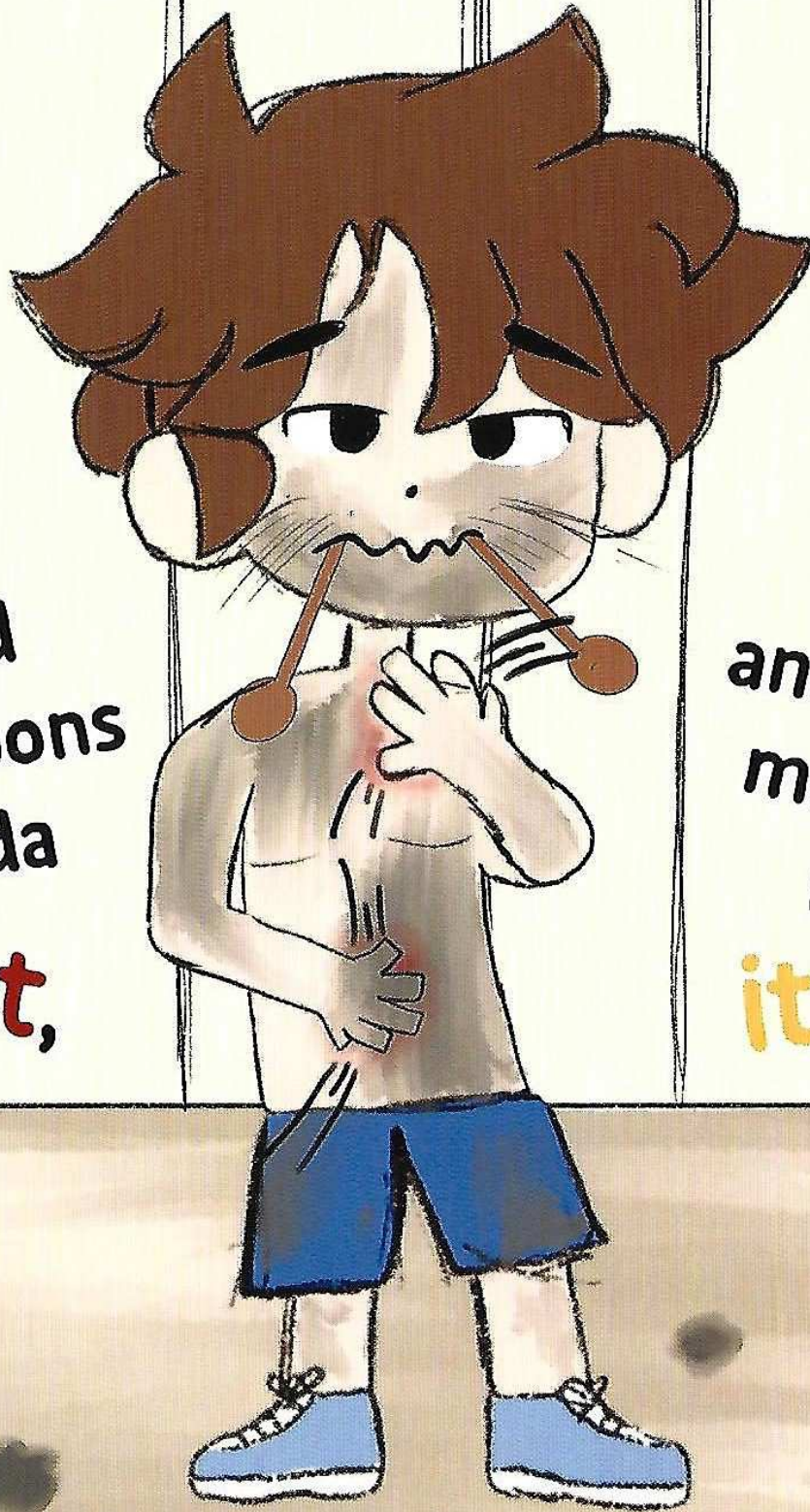




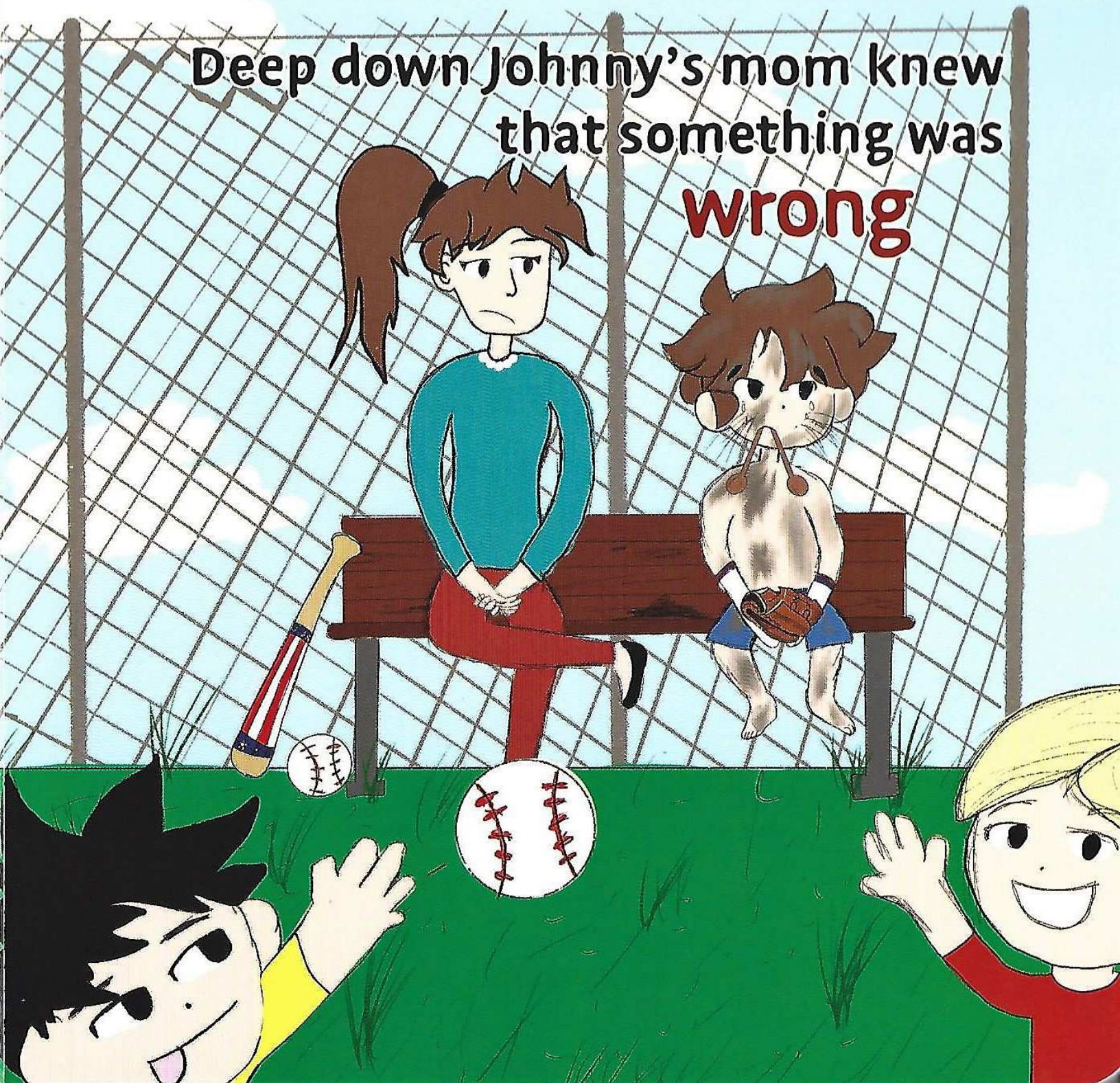
“It’s gross eating
worms, Mom.
They’re all so dang
twitchy!”

“Wood
spoons
kinda
hurt,

and the
makeup
is
itchy.”

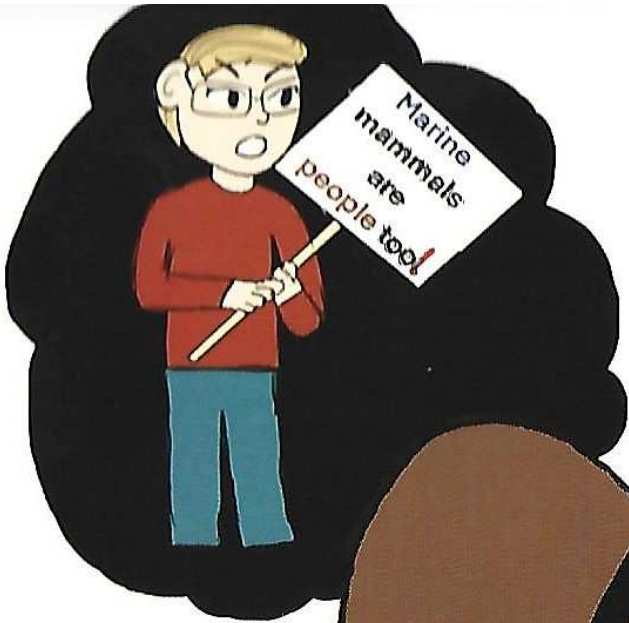


Deep down Johnny's mom knew
that something was
wrong



But she felt so much
pressure she just
went along



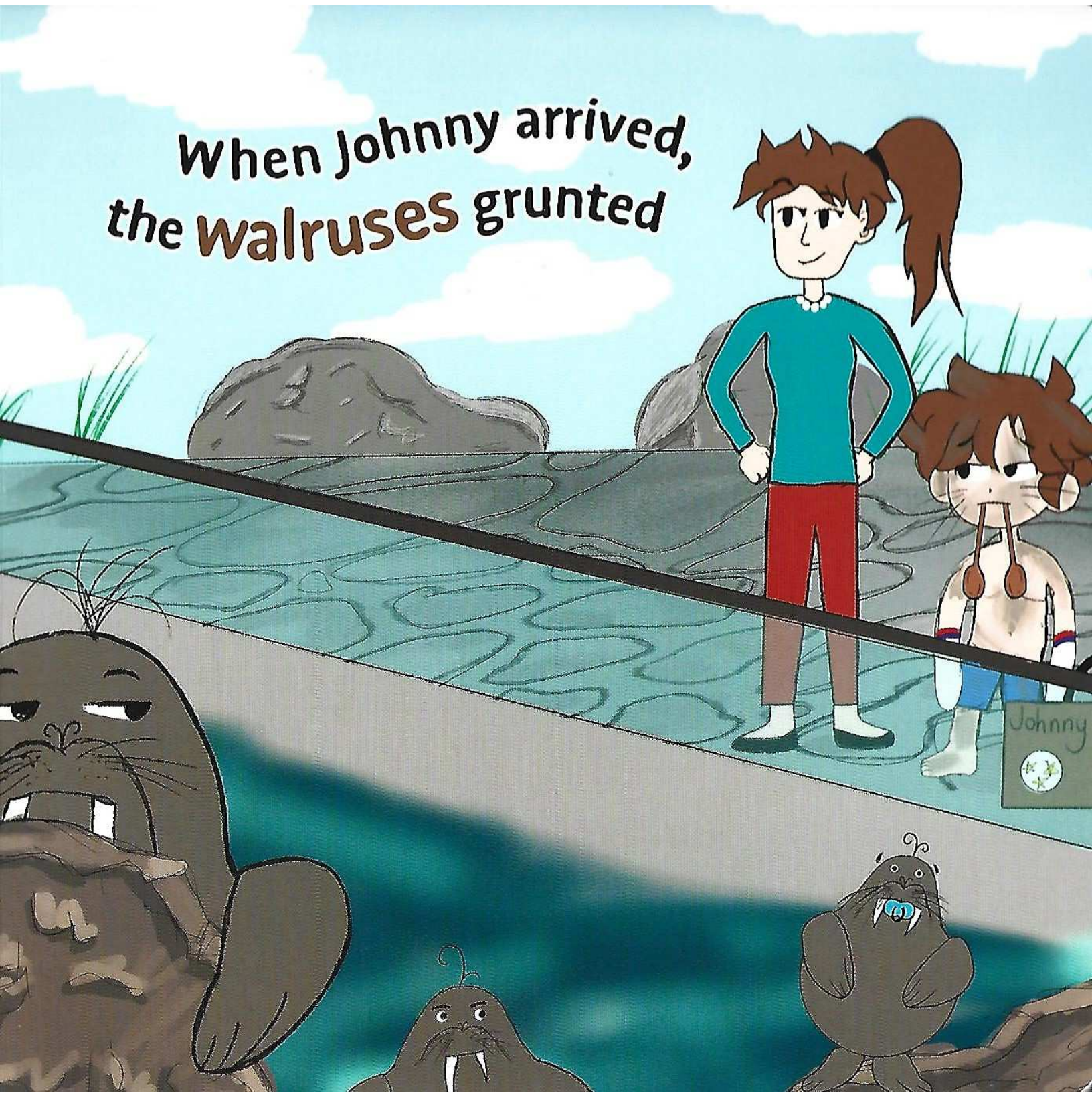


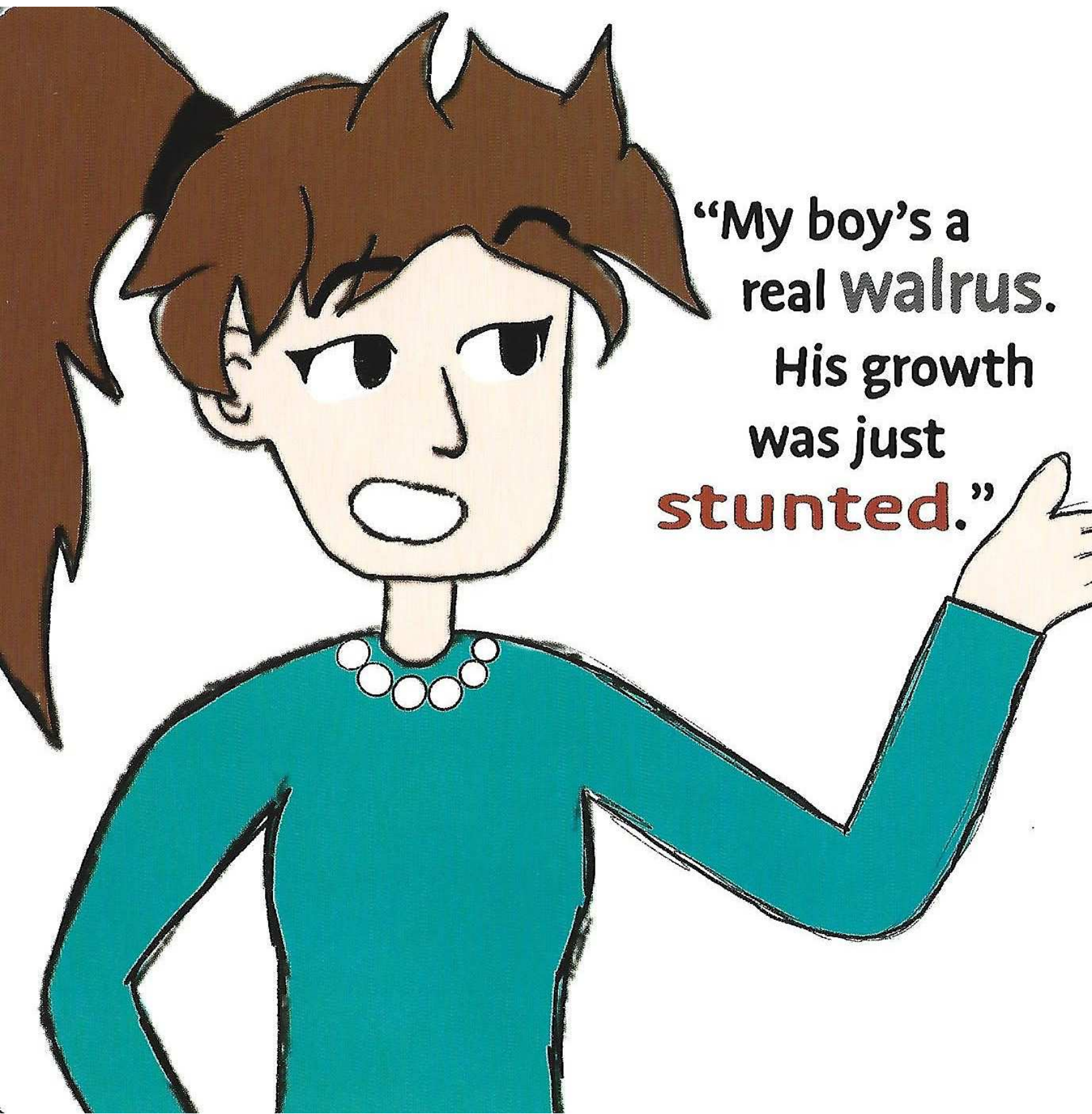
The internet people knew just what to do

And mommy was told
to take John to the zoo



When Johnny arrived,
the walruses grunted





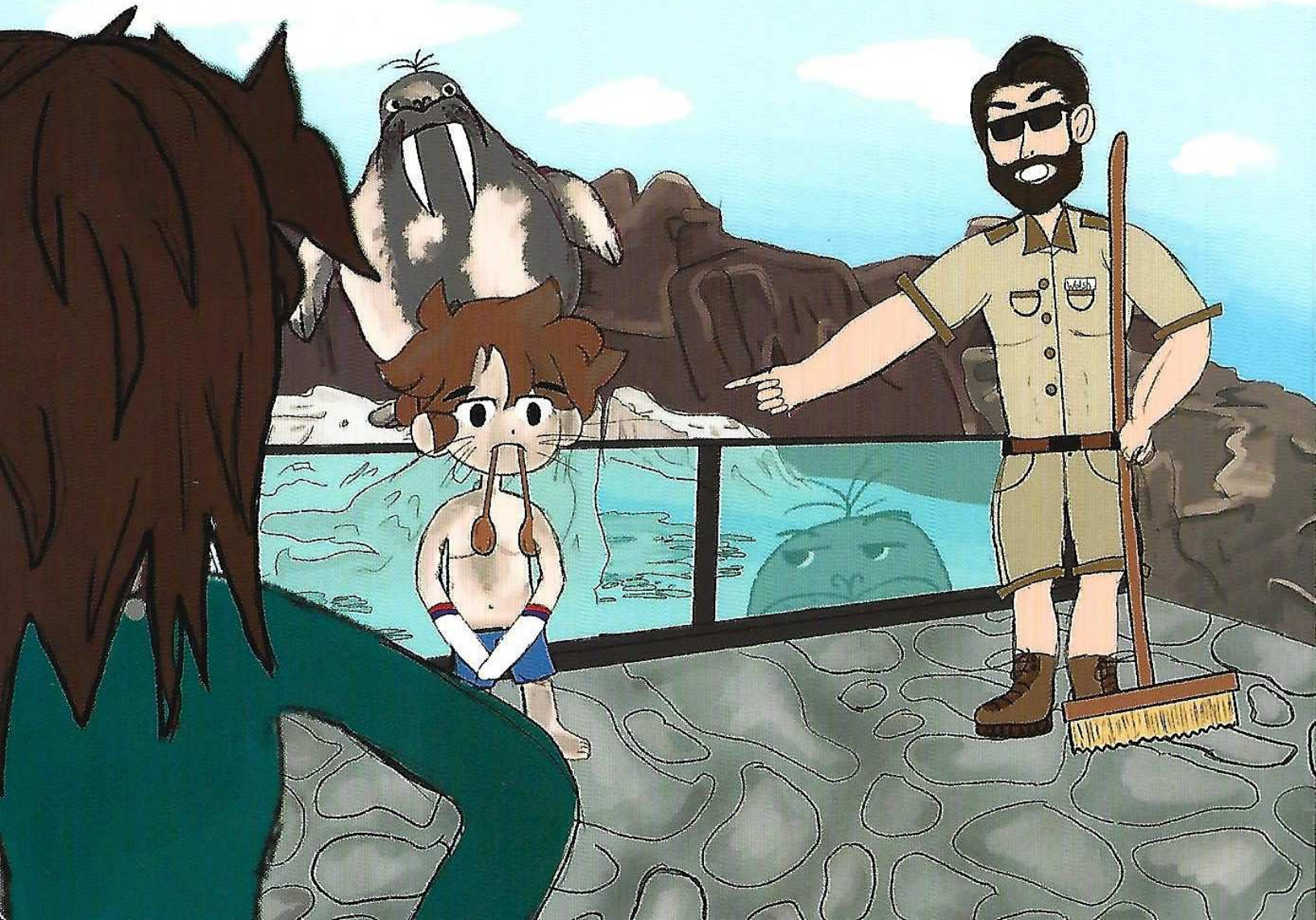
“My boy’s a
real walrus.
His growth
was just
stunted.”

The Zookeeper
thought,

“What’s
she talking
about?”



“Ma’am, that’s just a **boy** with **wood spoons** in his mouth!”



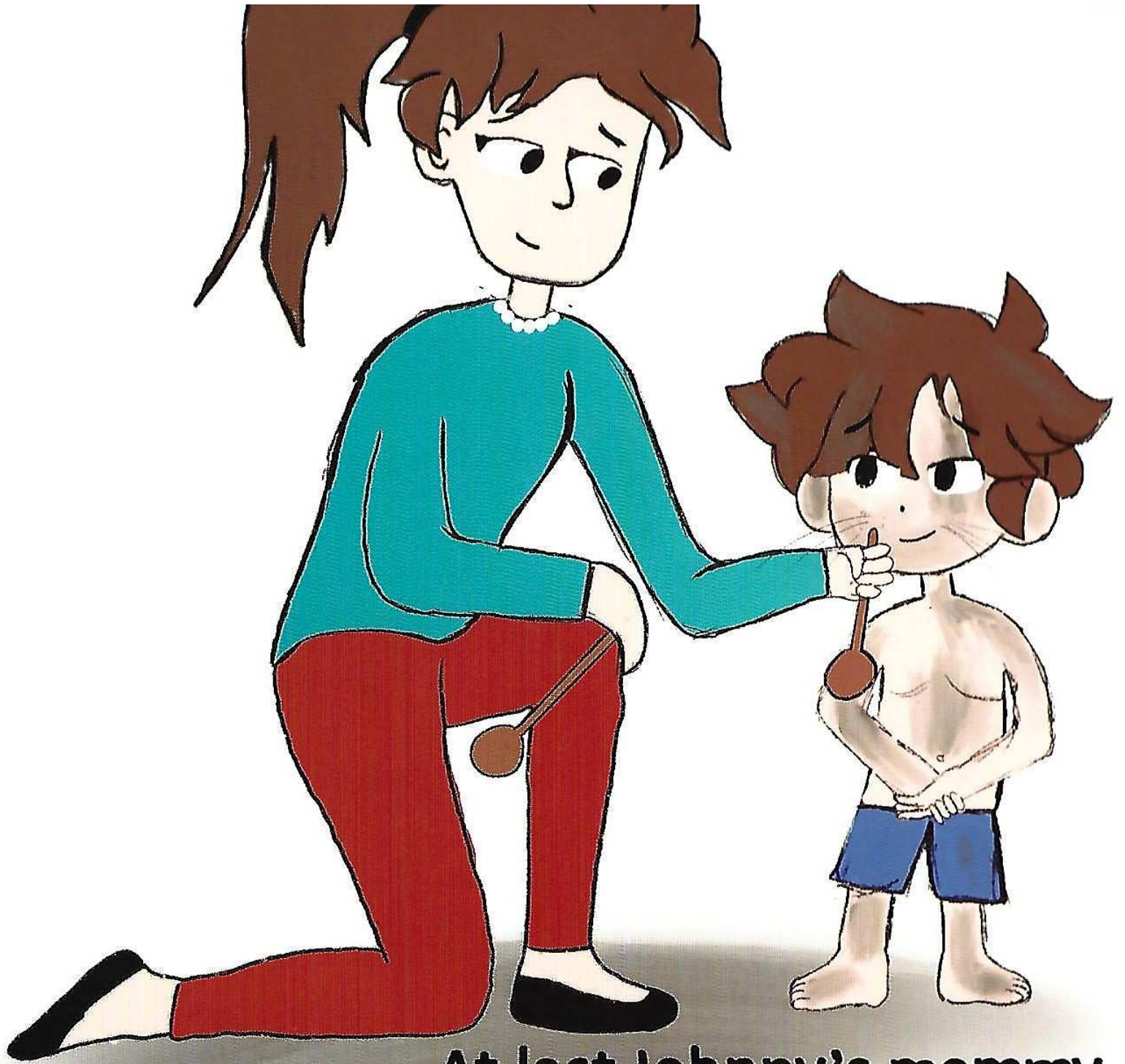


“But if I
believe that,
they’ll say
that I’m
phobic!”



“Protecting
your son,

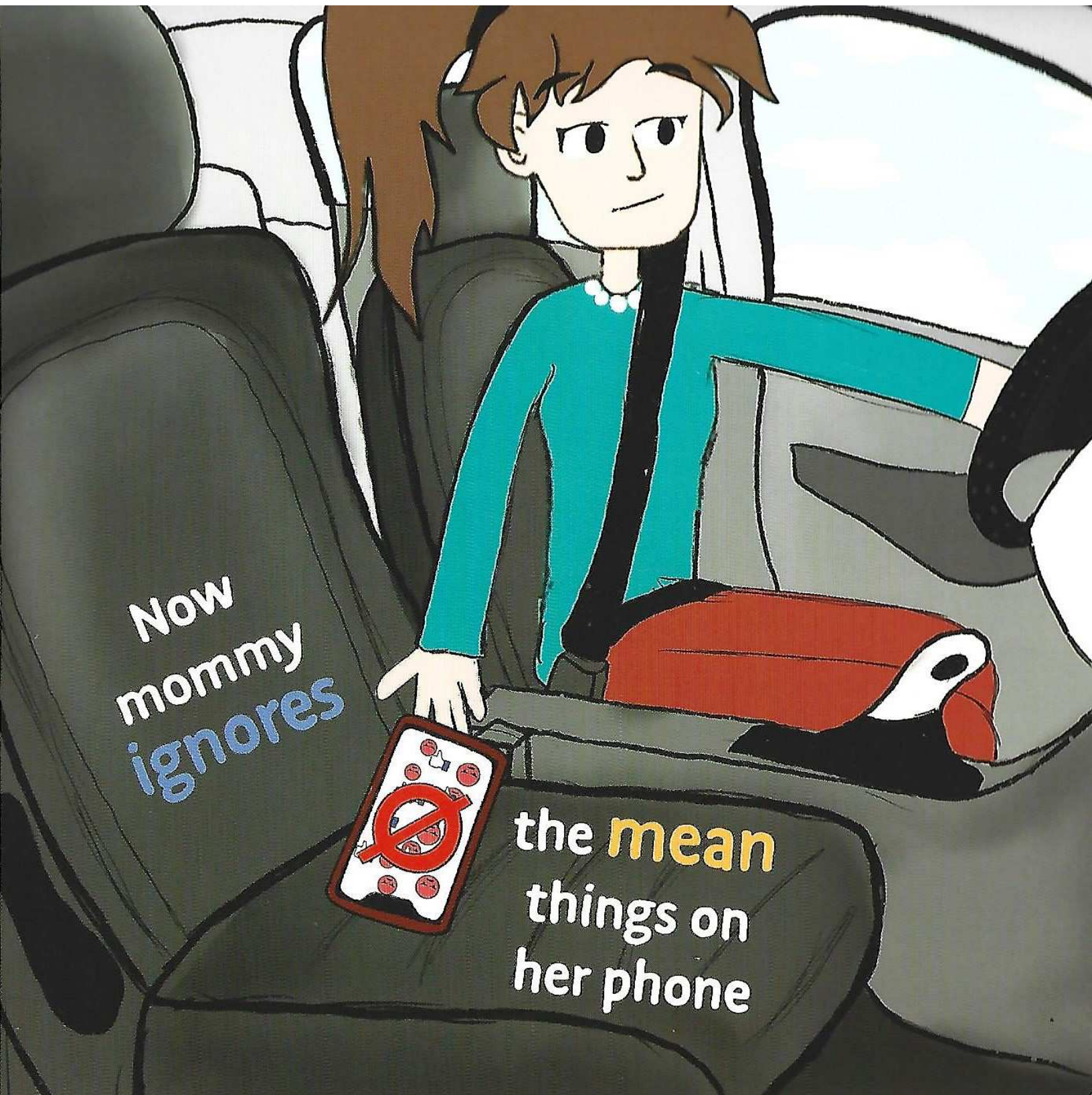
ma’am,
is what’s
most
heroic.”



At last Johnny's mommy
was able to **see**

That Johnny's
not what he's
pretending
to be





Now mommy ignores

the mean things on her phone

While Johnny
pretends

he's a bird flying home



The End

A Tale of Identity and Imagination



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